

Appl. No. 10/784,955
Amendment dated November 17, 2004
Reply to Office Action of November 15, 2004

The following Listing of Claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Claims 1-10. (Cancelled)

11. (Previously Presented) A front derailleur for a bicycle comprising:
a fixed member having a mounting portion configured to be coupled to a frame portion of the bicycle, said fixed member including a first mounting flange and a second mounting flange axially spaced from said first mounting flange;
a chain guide having a chain receiving slot to shift a chain of the bicycle in a transverse direction; and
a linkage assembly coupled between said chain guide and said fixed member to move said chain guide between a retracted position and an extended position; said linkage assembly including
a first link pivotally coupled to said fixed member at a first pivot point for rotation about a first pivot axis,
a second link pivotally coupled to said first and second mounting flanges for rotation about a second pivot axis passing through said first and second mounting flanges that is substantially parallel to said first pivot axis, and
a third link coupled to said chain guide and movably coupled to said first and second links to form a four-bar linkage together with said fixed member,
said first and second mounting flanges having different axial widths, as measured along said second pivot axis, said axial width of said first mounting flange being at least

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about five times thicker than said axial width of said second mounting flange with said first mounting flange being at least partially aligned with said first link in a direction perpendicular to said first and second pivot axes.

12. (Original) A front derailleur for a bicycle comprising:

a fixed member having a mounting portion configured to be coupled to a frame portion of the bicycle, said fixed member including a first mounting flange and a second mounting flange axially spaced from said first mounting flange;

a chain guide having a chain receiving slot to shift a chain of the bicycle in a transverse direction; and

a linkage assembly coupled between said chain guide and said fixed member to move said chain guide between a retracted position and an extended position; said linkage assembly including

a first link pivotally coupled to said fixed member at a first pivot point for rotation about a first pivot axis,

a second link pivotally coupled to said first and second mounting flanges for rotation about a second pivot axis passing through said first and second mounting flanges that is substantially parallel to said first pivot axis, said second link having a longitudinal dimension measured along said second pivot axis that is at least about 45.0 millimeters in length, and

a third link coupled to said chain guide and movably coupled to said first and second links to form a four-bar linkage together with said fixed member.

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13. (Original) The front derailleur according to claim 12, wherein
said fixed member is configured with said first pivot axis being spaced less than about
5.0 millimeters from a center plane of the frame portion, measured perpendicular to said first
pivot axis.

14. (Original) The front derailleur according to claim 12, wherein
said first and second mounting flanges have different axial widths, as measured along
said second pivot axis.

15. (Original) The front derailleur according to claim 14, wherein
said axial width of said first mounting flange is at least about five times thicker than
said axial width of said second mounting flange with said first mounting flange being at least
partially aligned with said first link in a direction perpendicular to said first and second pivot
axes.

16. (Original) The front derailleur according to claim 15, wherein
said first mounting flange is at least about 21 millimeters thick, as measured along
said second pivot axis.

17. (Original) The front derailleur according to claim 15, wherein
said first link has a cable attachment point adapted to fixedly couple a control element
thereto.

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18. (Original) The front derailleur according to claim 17, wherein
said linkage assembly includes a biasing member normally urging said chain guide to
one of said retracted and extended positions.

19. (Original) The front derailleur according to claim 18, wherein
said fixed member is a tubular clamping member.

20. (Currently Amended) ~~The front derailleur according to claim 12, wherein A~~
front derailleur for a bicycle comprising:
a fixed member having a mounting portion configured to be coupled to a frame
portion of the bicycle, said fixed member including a first mounting flange and a second
mounting flange axially spaced from said first mounting flange;
a chain guide having a chain receiving slot to shift a chain of the bicycle in a
transverse direction; and
a linkage assembly coupled between said chain guide and said fixed member to move
said chain guide between a retracted position and an extended position; said linkage assembly
including
a first link pivotally coupled to said fixed member at a first pivot point for
rotation about a first pivot axis,
a second link pivotally coupled to said first and second mounting flanges for
rotation about a second pivot axis passing through said first and second

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mounting flanges that is substantially parallel to said first pivot axis, said
second link having a longitudinal dimension measured along said second
pivot axis that is at least about 45.0 millimeters in length, and
a third link coupled to said chain guide and movably coupled to said first and second links to
form a four-bar linkage together with said fixed member,

said first mounting flange ~~extends~~ extending axially along said second pivot axis away from said mounting portion of said fixed member to form a first link receiving recess between said first mounting flange and said mounting portion of said fixed member such that said first link is at least partially disposed in said first link receiving recess to be at least partially aligned with said first mounting flange in a direction perpendicular to said first and second pivot axes.

21. (Original) The front derailleur according to claim 20, wherein
said first link includes a link attachment portion that is axially disposed between said third link and said fixed member, relative to said first pivot axis.